

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1 of the specification following the title.

### **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1 of the specification after the first paragraph (closing with “and/or signal compression”) and preceding the second paragraph (starting with “Signal processing systems...”).

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following paragraph at page 2 of the specification after the first paragraph (closing with “...visual system must contend”) and before the second paragraph (starting with “Aspects of the present invention...”).

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following paragraph at page 3 of the specification after the first paragraph (closing with “...independent of brightness and contrast”) and before the second paragraph (starting with “Preferred embodiments of the present invention...”).

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please insert the following paragraph at page 3 of the specification after the seventh paragraph (closing with “...third embodiment of the present invention”) and before the eighth paragraph (starting with “First, let us imagine...”).

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED VERSIONS OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following Abstract following the claims (such Abstract also being provided on a separate sheet accompanying this Preliminary Amendment, as per 37 CFR §1.72(b)):

An image signal is processed by deriving measurements representing the luminance of a signal; calculating values relating to the local mean, the local standard deviation, the local maximum and/or the local minimum; and computing therefrom local standard coordinates such as z-scores which are independent of brightness and contrast.